

Blues reach semi-finals

WYCOMBE Wanderers, producing some of the best football of the evening, reached the semi-finals of the Berger Isthmian League five-a-side Championship at Wembley Arena on Thursday.

Cheered on by one of the largest bands of supporters, Wycombe recorded wins over Harlow and Dulwich Hamlet before succumbing to Harrow who eventually went down 2-0 to champions Enfield in the final.

It proved quite a night for Wycombe's reserve goalkeeper Chris Way, who was the hero in the first two matches when saving penalties in a sudden death 'shoot-out'.

Indeed all Wycombe's matches were decided in this way.

Brave save

In the first round match against Harrow, Tony Price put Wycombe ahead before their opponents equalised. In the 'shoot out' Paul Birdseye scored before Way made a brave penalty save to see Wycombe through.

The pattern repeated itself in the second round against Dulwich. The match was drawn 2-2 with both sides having held at the lead — Wycombe's scorers were Paul West and Jimmy Jacobs. Way saved Dulwich's first penalty before Birdseye struck and put Wanderers into the semi-finals.

Goals by Paul Miles and Steve Long twice put Wycombe ahead against Harrow and it seemed that

Wanderers would repeat last year's achievement of reaching the final. But Harrow equalised each time through Tony Doherty and David Pearce.

This time Birdseye missed from the spot and Pearce's penalty put Harrow into the final, where they were beaten by a goal from Enfield's Steve King and John Tone.

Celebrities

A chorus of boos greeted Enfield as they received the Prince Philip Cup from Sir Stanley Rous, the former president of F.I.F.A., and Barry East, chairman of the Isthmian League.

Several celebrities were on view during the evening. Top television commentators Jimmy Hill and Brian Moore provided the 'chat', while top disc jockey Ed Stewart turned out in goal for the Goal-diggers team in a celebrity match against Berger Isthmian League managers' XI.

This match was notable for the achievement of Blues' boss Mike Keen, who scored both the goals in the managers' 2-1 victory. A delighted Keen, therefore, had the best goals per game average on the night and showed his juniors how to pace oneself during a game.

Wycombe squad: Chris Way, Paul Birdseye, Steve Long, Jimmy Jacobs, Paul Miles, Tony Price, Paul West.

RESULTS

1st round: Billericay 2, Sutton 3; Harrow 3, Leytonstone 0; Dulwich 3, Barking 0; Harlow 1, Wycombe 2; Woking 2, Maidenhead 1; Tooting 0, Bromley 1; Dagenham 2, Lewes 1; Enfield 2, Walthamstow 0.

2nd round: Sutton 0, Harrow 1; Dulwich 2, Wycombe 3; Woking 4, Bromley 0; Dagenham 2, Enfield 4.

Semi-finals: Harrow 3, Wycombe 2; Woking 0, Enfield 1. **Final:** Harrow 0, Enfield 2.